

ELDER EDWARD STEVENSON.

At the regular meeting of the Twenty-third quorum of Seventy held in the seventh ward meeting house Feb. 4, Elder Asahel H. Woodruff was ordained a president and set apart to fill the vacancy caused by the division of the quorum to form the 110th quorum. Elder Seymour B. Young of the First Council of Seventy was present and instructed the members and officers in their duties. Elder George O. Lambert, senior president of the quorum, read the following, which was adopted as the sentiment of the quorum, and ordered spread upon the minutes:

TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT EDWARD STEVENSON.

Since our last meeting one of our file leaders—one of the seven general presiding Seventy—has passed from mortality, and it is not only proper that as a quorum we take cognizance of the fact and have our record show to those who may peruse it hereafter, the esteem in which he was held by us, but it would also be well for us to review his earthly career and draw therefrom and profit by the many valuable lessons his life's record teaches.

When Brother Stevenson heard the Gospel proclaimed and yielded obedience to its requirements he was a poor and fatherless boy, possessed of a strong and comely physical appearance, but endowed with no extraordinary mental talents. When he enlisted in the service of the Lord he did it as we who were familiar with him in life knew him to do everything he undertook—without any reservation or doubt—with a determination to succeed.

His early experience in the Church was amidst perils and privations, scenes of mobocratic violence and cruel persecution. He witnessed the over-zealous commencement, erratic pursuance and demoralized termination of the Gospel race as essayed by many of his fellows. He saw plighted love for truth turn to hatred, and avowed fealty for the Lord's apostles followed by heartless and wicked betrayal. He was a victim of the fury of the ignorant, fanatical bigots who inhabited Missouri and Illinois, and who drove and plundered and finally banished the suffering Saints from the confines of civilization. In the meantime he remained steadfast to the truth, firm in his allegiance to the inspired leaders of the Saints, eager to listen to and ever ready to accept and obey, treasure up and record, the instructions of the Prophet whom God had raised up to establish His Church in this dispensation. His faith never failed when enemies to the truth were suffered to prevail, and though grieved at his own impotence to save those whom he would willingly have given his life in defense of, he did not lose hope when the Prophet and Patriarch were slain.

He was among the vanguard of the faithful, impoverished pilgrims who journeyed westward to establish Zion in the tops of the Rocky Mountains in fulfillment of the inspired prediction he so faithfully remembered and so fondly and frequently quoted in the hearing of many thousands now living. Here by patient toil he established a

home then and ever since regarded by him as a heritage from the Lord, and held sacred as such.

In any other community perhaps than that of the Latter-day Saints a man with as meager an education as Brother Stevenson had been able to gain would have had no special incentive to adopt any other vocation than that for which he had been specially trained—certainly not that of preacher or writer; but the changes in occupation as a result of being a Latter-day Saint are so common that it will appear only natural to us that he should combine farming with his trade of the smith, and that ere long he should also be called to fill a mission. He had been a successful tradesman, and so continued for a number of years afterwards. He was also more than ordinarily successful as a farmer and applanter, for upon these pursuits he relied chiefly as a means of support for his large and increasing family, there being no pecuniary profit in his missionary work. It was as a missionary, however, that he was destined to become most celebrated, and from the time he was first called to engage in the ministry his chief interest was centered in the work of saving souls. His was almost one continuous mission or rather succession of missions from that time forward. He realized as perhaps few men in this life do the value of a human soul, and time, labor, trouble and expense counted with him as nothing in his efforts to save his fellow creatures. He had the ability to accumulate wealth, as he demonstrated by his industry, economy and careful management; but it was exercised only as a means to an end, and not from any sordid motive. He had three families to support, who, by the way, to their credit be it said, were in sympathy with him in his work of self sacrifice, and assisted him by their industry and economy, but, aside from the duty of providing for those, he was ambitious only to do good to and save others.

Nobody ever heard of Edward Stevenson aspiring to the honors or emoluments of civil office, engaging in political strife or seeking place or prestige among financiers where wealth is sometimes to be gained as the result of association and not from the possession of any talent on the part of those engaged. Very few, however, who have been counted great financiers have done as much for the benefit of their fellow creatures by the expenditure of their millions as Elder Stevenson did with the surplus he accumulated over what was required to provide for the economical support of his families. He spent many thousands of dollars of his laborious earnings and careful savings in traveling to preach the Gospel. He bore his own expenses on his various missions which extended over many years and into many lands. He was just in his payment of tithes and generous in his offerings to the poor, and was able withal to make a very valuable bequest to the Latter-day Saints' college when he found his life's labors drawing to a close.

He crossed the Atlantic ocean nine times, from which it may be inferred that he filled four missions beyond the

He crossed the Plains between Utah and the Missouri river nineteen times, which means that he filled five other missions to the eastern portions of the Union. He also labored almost continuously for a great many years as a missionary throughout Utah and surrounding states and territories. He collected much genealogical data relating to his ancestors and performed a great deal of work in the Temple for their salvation. He accumulated through his long experience, close observation and persistent study a vast fund of knowledge relating to Church history, scripture and doctrine, became a fluent and interesting speaker, and notwithstanding his educational drawbacks, a frequent and valued contributor to the public press, and the author of several doctrinal and historical tracts and pamphlets.

He prepared and delivered many public lectures, principally for the benefit of the youth of Zion, and which were illustrated by paintings and other pictures obtained at great cost and trouble. He also showed the willingness in various other ways too numerous to mention to deny himself for the benefit of others, and finally when death overtook him, marvelous to relate, he owed no man a dollar.

Surely Brother Stevenson deserves to be ranked among the noblest, best and greatest men who have lived in this or any past age, and as an example in life worthy of emulation.

Let us show our respect for his memory by endeavoring to exhibit in our own lives that unflinching faith, that indomitable perseverance, that tireless industry, that whole-souled generosity, that cheerful self-denial, that high sense of honor, that desire for the salvation of our fellows and that preference for the riches of eternity over the vanities of worldly wealth which characterized the life of our worthy brother.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

The Scott-Auerbach building on East Temple street was destroyed by fire Feb. 3. The loss is estimated at \$150,000, partly covered by insurance.

Several members of the fire department met with painful accidents, though none are necessarily fatal. A narrow escape from death also occurred, when Miss Smith was rescued from the burning building by Assistant Chief Donovan and Electrician Vail.

The alarm was sent in by telephone from A. C. Smith's drug store at 11 o'clock. It was stated that the fire was somewhere between First and Second South streets, and the firemen were bothered somewhat in finding the location of the fire. The firemen made a good run, considering the slippery condition of the streets, but the fire had gained such headway that their efforts to extinguish the blaze and save the building were not successful.

The alarm of fire was turned in to the department shortly before 11 o'clock last night. The fire was then confined to the rear of George M. Scott & Co's store, but from that time on it spread very rapidly, and when the fire department arrived on the scene it had assumed such proportions that the streams of water poured into